(b) Goods trains are run as per the operational and safety rules mentioned in various codes on Indian Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

Increasing reservation period

1311. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to increase the advanced reservation period from 60 to 90 days;

(b) whether any order to this effect has been issued;

(c) whether exception would be made with respect to certain trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There will be no change in the case of certain day time express trains like Taj Express, Gomti Express etc. where lower time limits for advance reservations are at present in force.

Gauge conversion of Chhindwara-Jabalpur Line

†1312. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether provision for gauge conversion of narrow gauge between Chhindwara-Seoni-Jabalpur is being made during ensuing financial year;

(b) if so, by when the gauge conversion on this route is proposed to be undertaken in the action plan for expansion/gauge conversion of the Railways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The work of gauge conversion of Nainpur-Jabalpur is in progress as part of the sanctioned Gondia-Jabalpur (including Balaghat-Katangi) gauge conversion project. An outlay of Rs. 60 crore has been proposed for this work in the Budget 2007-08. An updating survey for conversion of Nainpur-Chhindwara (*via* Seoni) (140 Kms) meter gauge line into broad gauge has been included in the Budget 2007-08. No timeframe for approval/taking up of this project is feasible to be given. The proposal would be further processed based on the results of the survey.

Plan to boost export

1313. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways and its PSUs have drawn out a plan for boosting exports under India's neighbourhood; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the foreign market to be tapped up and locomotives, coaches and other items of Indian manufacture in respect of which export potential is intended to be tapped up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes Sir, IRCON International Ltd. and RITES Ltd. are exporting rolling stock to neighbouring countries. Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) are strengthening corridors to hinterland to provide better port connectivity to boost exports.

(b) IRCON is running meter gauge diesel/electrical locomotives on a lease cum maintenance contract to Malaysia since 1963. The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) had shown interest in the concept of leasing-cum-maintenance contract and a trial is scheduled to be held in March, 2007 for running of IRCON locomotives in Thailand.

RITES has plans to tap export potential for locomotives, coaches and other items of Indian manufacture in neighbouring countries. Details are given below:

* Export of diesel locomotives, wagons, crew rest vans and Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) to Sri Lanka for proposed rehabilitation of Coastal Railway line.